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**May 25, 1999**

Commissioner Jane E. Henney, M.D.  
FDA  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Commissioner Henney:

I strongly agree with the FDA's decision to allow foods such as fruits, meats, and vegetables to be irradiated. In the following paragraphs of my letter you will read about reasons you probably already know or have heard, since they are good, positive reasons. I'm guessing you want to hear them, right?

My first reason is that the irradiated foods are much better and easier to use. In Medical Update, Edwin Brown says that "not only does irradiated foods protect us, but it extends the useful life of perishable foods". Michael Fey, in Health and Fitness gives the FDA irradiation process a good review: "it is the most important advance in dietary health since the invention of pasteurization." I think that this quote, with my *own* understanding, means pasteurization was an important scientific discovery of how to preserve food and avoid illnesses spread by germs in milk. Irradiation is a very important way to also preserve food and avoid diseases created by germs in food.

Pasteurization was invented in the 1800's, while irradiation was invented just more recently; irradiation is the most important process since pasteurization.

My second reason is that eating irradiated foods is not dangerous. The Washington Times says that while working with irradiated foods, no worker has ever been killed or made sick on the job. It also says that no consumer has ever gotten sick by eating irradiated foods. Therefore, instead of irradiation being dangerous, it is just the opposite,--very safe.

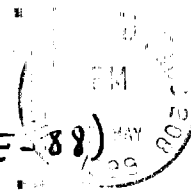
My third reason, is that irradiation kills harmful bacteria. In Health & Fitness it says irradiation can "kill trichina worms & salmonella". Since irradiation can kill bacteria and organisms that usually cause food poisoning, I believe it can save hundreds of lives per year and protect us from diseases. In Washington Times it says "food-borne microbes kill 9,000 Americans each year," while with irradiated foods it can kill nobody.

In conclusion, for the above three reasons, I know you agree in completion to my research. I now truly agree with the process of irradiated foods. FDA, you're doing a great job. Keep up the great work! Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,  
*Meredith Chambers*  
Meredith Chambers

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